

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 10th state Senate District is ensuring New Haven and West Haven receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$174,002,085	This funding is an increase of \$8,921,705 over last year's total
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$986,365	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$11,839,069	
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$2,323,793	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$43,788,064	
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$3,861,229	
Totals	\$236,800,605	



**Kinship Navigator Program**  
Many constituents have called my office to ask about services and assistance available to those who have accepted the responsibility for caring for young relatives. That's why I'm proud to report that we passed new legislation to require the Department of Children and Families along with other agencies to establish a kinship navigator program to help relative caregivers find services. Once established, the program will ensure that grandparents and other relative caregivers get information on the array of state services and benefits for which they may qualify, including the subsidized guardianship program.

**Summer Youth Program**  
Young people in the 10th Senate District as well as across the state will benefit from a \$4 million investment in our statewide Summer Youth Employment programs. We know how important it is to help young people develop a work ethic and we know how rewarding it is for young people to have succeeded in the workplace and to have earned a paycheck. Eligible young people will be screened to ensure family income requirements are met; those eligible must be 14 to 19 years old and participate in reduced-price or fully subsidized school meal programs.

**Amistad America**  
I'm pleased to announce that the state has provided additional support to help enhance the educational experience offered by Amistad America, a non-profit organization. Our State Flagship, the Amistad's home port is Long Wharf Pier in New Haven. Amistad America's education program works to educate the public on the events surrounding the Amistad and the slave trade and to encourage improved relationships between races.



A Message to My Constituents




Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for automobiles, real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
  
Toni Nathaniel Harp  
State Senator, 10th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:  
[www.senatedems.ct.gov/Harp.html](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Harp.html)



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



State Senator  
**Toni Nathaniel Harp**

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I'm proud  
to represent the  
10th state  
Senate District  
which includes  
the communities  
of New Haven  
and West Haven

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# 2006 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

STATE SENATOR TONI HARP 10TH DISTRICT

With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support.

We wisely used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we are funding a cutting-edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vital and competitive in the 21st century.

In this year's budget we:

- Increased vital aid to cities and towns by \$60 million—an action necessary to help keep local property taxes down
- Deposited approximately \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund
- Fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 with \$246 million from the state surplus
- Stabilized Connecticut's nursing home industry
- Provided over \$7 million in new funding for job training

Finally, one of our greatest achievements in this budget was to successfully fight to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500.



## Working for Connecticut's Future

### Allowing Cash Discounts for Gasoline and Banning Zone Pricing

The Senate adopted a "first-in-the-nation" ban on gasoline zone pricing. The proposal prohibited gasoline refiners and producers from establishing price zones based on geography or other criteria. The legislation also allowed gasoline retailers to provide cash discounts to their customers, and required retailers to set prices based on the cost of gasoline in their possession and not on anticipated spikes in the market. Unfortunately, this bill did not become law.



### Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

### Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed

legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less detrimental impact.

### Reaction to Tragedy in Sudan

The tragedy in Sudan has resulted in more than 3 million Sudanese displaced and 400,000 dead. We acted to halt state investments that could benefit the Sudanese government responsible for genocide, rape and starvation in the Darfur region of this beleaguered African country. By joining with universities, other states and countries to increase international economic pressure, Connecticut can play a role in stopping the shameful actions of the Sudanese government.

### Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, certain insurance companies will be required to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.

### Lung Cancer Awareness and Umbilical Cord Blood

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. A new law designates November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month to increase public awareness about lung cancer and its associated risk factors. The law

also establishes a committee to examine the possibility of Connecticut establishing a public umbilical cord blood bank. Umbilical cord blood, rich in stem cells, holds great promise for treating and possibly curing diseases.

### Tax Credits for Historic Structures

Our state has many older, historic structures that are now vacant and in desperate need of rehabilitation. We passed legislation that authorizes \$15 million per year in business tax credits for funds spent rehabilitating these properties for residential use. This type of incentive will help restore and beautify these buildings while providing housing and reinvestment to our communities.



### Trafficking in Persons

The story of young women being taken from their native lands and forced into prostitution may sound like a movie plot, but unfortunately it is all too real in our state and across the country. These women are lured to our country by the prospect of a new life only to find that they are just a commodity once they arrive. These women are often forced into prostitution or slave labor with no idea of how to escape. Law enforcement now has a new tool to fight this epidemic by making a new crime of "Trafficking in Persons" a Class B felony.

### Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the Legislature continued to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing

new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

## Roadmap to Connecticut's Economic Future

Understanding that a solid transportation infrastructure is critical to job creation, the General Assembly did not stop with last year's \$1.3 billion in transportation funding that will buy new rail cars for Metro North and make major improvements to I-95. During the 2006 session the legislature authorized another \$1 billion in projects that will help build the transportation future of our entire state. This legislation continues to build our mass transit infrastructure by authorizing:

- The creation of a New Haven to Springfield commuter rail line with a connection to Bradley International Airport
- \$60 million to be invested in new rail stations and new parking facilities along the New Haven Line and Shoreline East
- Creation of both a West Haven and Orange rail station on the New Haven Line



**HOUSE PARTIES** pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.



**WE LISTENED** to Connecticut's parents and doctors and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. We passed landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthier choices for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.